

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A card shuffling apparatus comprising:
  - a housing,
  - a card input receptacle located on said housing adapted to receive at least one deck of unshuffled playing cards,
  - a shuffling device adapted to receive the cards from said card input receptacle and for selectively shuffling the cards for at least two different card games having different card shuffling requirements, and
  - a controller disposed within said housing,
  - an image capturing means disposed within said housing for obtaining image data of a playing card,
  - a display means located on said housing for displaying images captured by said image capturing means, and
  - a card output bin adapted to discharge shuffled playing cards.
2. The card shuffler apparatus, as in claim 1, further comprising:
  - a control panel located on said housing, said control panel having keys operatively connected to said

controller for selecting operation functions of the card shuffler.

3. The card shuffler apparatus of claim 2 wherein said display means is located on said control panel.

4. The card shuffler apparatus of claim 3, wherein said controller comprises:

- a microprocessor,
- a non-volatile memory storage means for storing images of said playing cards,
- an image processing means for processing the image data collected by said image capturing means.

5. The card shuffler apparatus of claim 4, wherein said controller contains software adapted to control the operation of the image capturing means.

6. The card shuffler apparatus of claim 4, wherein said non-volatile memory storage means has the capacity to store image data of multiple playing cards, for a plurality of playing stations, for a plurality of games.

7. The card shuffler apparatus of claim 6, wherein said controller contains software adapted to control said display means;

said display means adapted to display images of multiple playing cards for a plurality of play stations upon command.

8. The card shuffler of claim 3, wherein said display means is a liquid crystal display adapted to display card images in conjunction with textual messages.

9. The card shuffler apparatus of claim 1, wherein said image capturing means is in a camera.

10. The card shuffler apparatus of claim 9, wherein said camera is a digital camera.

11. The card shuffler apparatus of claim 9, wherein said camera is a digital video camera.

12. A method for shuffling and dealing playing cards for card games, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a card shuffler having
  - a housing,
  - a card input receptacle located on said housing adapted to receive at least one deck of unshuffled playing cards,
  - a shuffling device adapted to receive the cards from said card input receptacle and

for selectively shuffling the cards for at least two different card games having different card shuffling requirements, and a controller disposed within said housing said controller having

a microprocessor,

a non-volatile memory storage means for storing images of said playing cards,

an image processing means for processing the image data collected by said image capturing means,

an image capturing means disposed within said housing for obtaining image data of a playing card,

a display means located on said housing for displaying images captured by said image capturing means, and

a card output bin adapted to discharge shuffled playing cards;

- b) receiving unshuffled cards in the input receptacle,
- c) shuffling said cards in random order for selective card games having at least two different game requirements and shuffling modes,
- d) obtaining an image of each of said playing cards before being output to the output bin,

- e) processing said images, and
- f) displaying said images on said display means.

13. The method for shuffling playing cards, as in claim 12, wherein said processing step further comprises:

converting said image from analog to digital form,  
  
mapping said converted data for bitmap format,  
  
and  
  
compressing said image.

14. The method for shuffling playing cards, as in claim 13, wherein said processing step further includes storing said image data, of multiple playing stations for a plurality of games played, into bitmap images.

15. The method of shuffling playing cards, as in claim 14, wherein said step of displaying further includes displaying said bitmap images on a liquid crystal display.

16. The method of shuffling playing cards, as in claim 15, wherein said displaying step further comprises displaying multiple card images, for multiple playing stations for a plurality of games played, for verification of winning hands.